



Friday 1st May 2020

Newsletter 280

www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Keeping in touch

I have had zoom meetings with all Gillespie staff this week and as well as staff being able to see each other and chat, it has been great to share successes and challenges with home learning so that we can learn from each other.

We like to hear from parents as well and had a really good insight into how home learning was going from the perspective of parents at our virtual Governing Body meeting this week. Parents and teachers all agree that most of your children love to communicate with their teachers and each other and value getting feedback on their work and learning. Teachers will continue to work hard to ensure all of your children are engaged and feel included.

Printed learning packs

We have contacted all families who are struggling the most with lack of technology and sent home new packs of printed work to many families. We know that all children in the school will benefit from a balance of on-line work and printed work and activities that they can do in their books and on paper. To this end, we have been planning and preparing with teachers to send home sets of printed work to all children in all classes. These will be ready in about a week's time and we will contact you to arrange for you to collect from the school. As we have done this week, if some families are unable to collect work from school then we will hand deliver to your homes (observing social distancing!)

New exercise books

If your children have already run out of space in the writing and maths books they took home before the Lockdown, then we have a ready supply in the office. Please pop to the school any time to pick up new exercise books. It is important that your children keep up their writing skills!

Bank Holiday Closure

School, both virtual and at Gillespie school will be closed for the Bank holiday on Friday May 8th. It is important that children, parents and staff have a break on that day.

Library loan service

Our new library loan service aimed at families who have few reading and picture books at home is now up and running. Simply collect a pack of 5 books from the office, sign them out and then return a week later and collect a different set! Do keep bringing them back so that we can utilize this resource with as many families as possible.

Positivity Tree

I received a lovely e-mail from parent Vicky this week with a photograph of the lovely 'Positivity tree' created by Daisy (Y1) and her little brother Alfie. Look for it on the street somewhere in our local area! Daisy says: "we have decorated it with various positive things and words to cheer people up and keep community spirit together if you are passing, stop for a minute, take time to think of someone or something that makes you happy ... SMILE"

What a lovely message! it certainly has made me smile.



Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen Headteacher

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care.

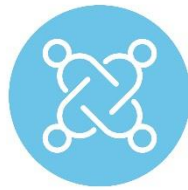
Staff, **parents** and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday



**ELIZABETH
HOUSE**

Your local community centre

Covid-19 crisis Food and care parcels for isolated and vulnerable residents

If you need extra support and would benefit from receiving a weekly food & care parcel,

contact Elizabeth House Community Centre on

info@elizabeth-house.org.uk or

020 7690 1300

to be added to our distribution list.

Parcels are currently delivered by local volunteers on **Wednesday** afternoon.

Elizabeth House relies on food donations from Islington Council, local supermarkets, residents and local restaurants. The content of parcels will vary depending on donations received, but generally include freshly cooked meals, dry and fresh food, toiletries and cleaning products.